

Heber Valley Residents For Wasatch Stake T

2 July 1987

Heber City urgently needs your support! The city's tabernacle, saved from demolition by cooperative effort some years ago, now needs your vote on July 7 to approve plans to remodel and utilize this lovely old building. The project includes a badly needed new city hall, space for a museum, and a meeting hall. With the growing emphasis on tourism as a means of improving the economy of the valley, this project will add to Heber's attractiveness and appeal.

The project is not expected to require any new tax burden. The city already has \$273,576 in place toward the project and funds budgeted for capital improvements should cover anticipated loan payments. Plans submitted by George Olsen, architect, maintain the building's character and have been approved by the state historical society.

When one considers the history of the building and what it has meant to our community, the merits of its preservation are more readily apparent. Twenty-seven years after the first pioneers entered the

larger, modern stake center. Along with it would go the social hall (Senior Citizens Center), built in 1906-07. Protests arose from the citizens of the community. Further protests poured into the newspaper from various organizations throughout the state such as the Sons and Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, the state parks director, architects, the director of the state historical society and many more. In response to the protests, the county commissioners, the Heber City Council, and the mayors of Heber, Midway, and Charleston issued a resolution in support of preserving and restoring our historical and beloved tabernacle.

Not until the blades of the bulldozer were literally pushing at the walls did a few dedicated persons of Heber City organize. Appeals were then directed to the First Presidency of the Church who finally agreed to postpone demolition. A grace period was granted during which funds would be raised to purchase an alternate site for the new LDS temple. A new LDS temple site was chosen and the

I did some quick calculating. It was just about 8:00; sunset wasn't until around 9:30. An hour and a half, and we'd have to hustle! My heart dropped, with the binoculars and the bota bag, to the trail.

After several catch-your-breath stops, we finally made it to the top. And it was spectacular. Of course we had just missed the sunset, but the western sky was a blaze of orange, the mountains a blue silhouette on the horizon and the Great Salt Lake was a shimmer of quicksilver.

We sat on the blanket and drank our bota bagged beverage as the lights of the city below twinkled on with the stars above. Despite my posterior poised on a pointed rock and my teeth chattering from the cool breeze, I realized that, in its own way, it was romantic.

Then came the return trip. I didn't get as out of breath on the way down as I did on the way up, but I found muscles I didn't know I had, and I slid on places I didn't know you could slide on.

Just our luck the moon was late in rising, so we made our trek down the trail, sans the moonlight, the flashlight darting on the trail in front. Kraig had little faith in the flashlights I had brought (I grabbed them from the back of the garage) so, rather than be left in the dark, we decided to use just one flashlight, and flick the other on only when needed. He led the way, light in hand, any time as he came down the trail.

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with a few exceptions where it is more practical to contract with neighboring fire departments.

In other business, representatives of the county's auditing firm, Hawkins, Borup & Coward, recommended some small adjustments to county financial systems and presented alternatives for managing certain county funds. Other than that, the county was given their "highest rated opinion," meaning county records "represent fairly the financial status of Wasatch County."

Representatives of Northern Engineering, the firm hired by the county to design Route A between Heber City and Kamas reported that they had just returned from re-evaluating the alignment they are proposing and said they thought they could straighten it enough to eliminate about a mile of surface, lowering the cost and increasing the county's chances of getting enough funds to build it to 50 mph standards.

Walt Jones, president of the firm, pointed out that the highway connecting Kamas and Park City is also "ready to go" but that there are only enough funds immediately available for either that or Route A. He said his goal is to complete the design for Route A in time to award the construction contract next spring.

The developers and the HVSSD have also reworked the contract.